

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY OPERATIONAL AREA

GRANT PROGRAM NARRATIVE

BACKGROUND

The Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) selected the County of San Bernardino to develop or amend a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. The County will receive \$25,000 to develop the Plan and submit one of the four priority projects stated in the Grant Program Narrative. The project that the County of San Bernardino selected was to develop a mitigation strategy.

OBJECTIVES

San Bernardino County anticipates completing a Hazard Mitigation Plan by the November 1, 2004 deadline. The goals of 2003 will focus on the strategy, which will include an examination of the hazards and vulnerabilities to San Bernardino County. The measures identified in this strategy will be cost effective and prioritized. The 2004 goals will focus on developing the Hazard Mitigation Plan as well as implementing the Plan and monitoring the progress of the Plan. Environmental and historic issues will be addressed and coordinated with Land Use Services and other key County departments and agencies.

San Bernardino County is using FEMA's how-to-guide for State and Local Mitigation Planning (FEMA 386-1, 386-2, 386-3, 386-7) to develop the Hazard Mitigation Plan. The goal of the Hazard Mitigation Plan is to determine how to reduce or eliminate the loss of life and property damage resulting from natural and human-caused hazards. The strategy used to create the Plan is a series of four steps taken out of FEMA's how-to-guide:

Step One	Identify Stakeholders
Step Two	Identify Hazards
Step Three	Develop a Mitigation Plan
Step Four	Mitigation Plan Implementation and Monitoring of Progress

Step One: Identify Stakeholders

The first step will be to identify appropriate stakeholders. Ongoing meetings and communication will exist between the County of San Bernardino and the stakeholders to ensure the correct information is being attained and that all Stakeholders are involved in each milestone of the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Step Two: Identify Hazards

The identification of the characteristics and potential consequences of local planning and hazards is crucial when developing a mitigation plan. The County's Emergency Operations Plan, currently under revision, will be utilized, as well as other supporting documents, websites, and discussions with experts in the community, to supply the information needed to identify past hazards.

Once the hazards have been identified, a risk assessment will be conducted. A risk assessment process provides an overview of populations and facilities most vulnerable to natural hazards.

PROGRAM NARRATIVE (Continued)

Step Three: Develop a Mitigation Plan

Once the hazards have been identified, priorities, goals, and objectives will be identified. The goals and objectives will explain target achievements, such as ensuring economic vitality to the community, minimizing wildfire losses, or ensuring the continuity of local government operations so that they will not be significantly disrupted by disasters.

The objectives will include strategies or implementation steps to attain the identified goal, such as protecting structures in historic downtown areas from hazards, education of citizens regarding fire safety, identification of plans and resources to facilitate reestablishing County operations after a disaster.

Mitigation actions will help achieve the goals and objectives, (e.g., to sponsorship of a community fair to promote fire safety). Some of these actions may be in prevention (e.g., codes and regulations), public education and awareness (e.g., outreach projects and information centers), and structural projects (e.g., dams and levees).

Step Four: Mitigation Plan Implementation and Monitoring of Progress

To ensure the success of an ongoing hazard mitigation program, it is critical that the plan remains relevant. Thus, it is important to conduct periodic evaluations and make revisions as needed. Tabletop exercises and actual disasters will be used to test the plan.

Initial milestones to accomplish the above are as follows:

Strategy Step	Milestones	Dates
	San Bernardino County awarded 2002 PDM Grant Funds	April 23, 2003
	Board of Supervisors approval of Grant application	June 24, 2003
	Deadline for submission of Grant application	June 30, 2003
Step One	Identify Key Stakeholders and conduct meetings	August 29, 2003
	Hazard Mitigation Plan Progress Report due to OES	September 30, 2003
Step Two	Identify Hazards	October 31, 2003
	Complete Mitigation Strategy by Performance Period Expiration Date	December 31, 2003
Step Three	Develop a Hazard Mitigation Plan	November 1, 2004
Step Four	Implement the Plan and monitor progress	Post November 1, 2004